

APPENDIX A. AGENCY RESPONSE LETTERS



Arizona Department of Transportation

Environmental Planning Group

205 South 17th Avenue Room 213E Phoenix, Arizona 85007-3212
Phone 602.712.7760 FAX 602.712.3066

Mary E. Peters
Director

May 1, 2001

Ms. JoAnne Miller
State Historic Preservation Office
Arizona State Parks
1300 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

S.H.P.O.- 2000 -1978(6227)

RE: SHPO No.: SHPO-2000-1978
Project No.: NH-060-B(GEN)
TRACS No.: 060 MA 160 H5137 01C
Grand Avenue Intersections Project
27th Ave./Thomas Rd.—Archaeological Monitoring/Testing Report

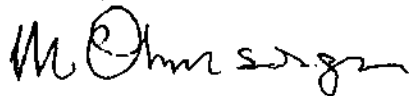
Dear Ms. Miller:

As you are aware, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) are planning to make operational and safety improvements to eight intersections along Grand Avenue (US 60) in the cities of Phoenix, Glendale, and Peoria, Maricopa County, Arizona. A Programmatic Agreement (PA) was recently executed that addresses the manner in which potential project impacts on historic properties would be handled. In accord with the PA, FHWA consulted with you in letters dated 1/30/01 and 2/06/01 regarding the need for archaeological testing and monitoring at one of the project intersections (27th Ave./Thomas Road), where the archaeological site of Las Colinas (AZ T:12:10 [ASM]) may extend partially within the Area of Potential Effect. Plans for monitoring and testing were submitted to your office with this previous consultation. Your office concurred with the adequacy of these plans.

Desert Archaeology has conducted monitoring and testing at this location and has prepared a report describing the results of their efforts. Pursuant to Stipulations III and IV of the project PA, ADOT is consulting with you on behalf of FHWA in order to submit to you a copy of this report, entitled "Archaeological Monitoring and Testing for the Grand Avenue Overpass at 27th Avenue and Thomas Road Project, Phoenix, Arizona" (Clark and Henderson 2001). Desert Archaeology completed monitoring and testing in the south half of the subject parcel (within the previously identified site boundaries), where demolition had been completed. The results indicate that no significant remains associated with Las Colinas extend into the project area. Based on the findings of the work in the south half of the parcel, no additional testing or monitoring is recommended for work in the north half.

Please review the enclosed report. If you find the report adequate and agree that no additional archaeological investigation is needed at this location, please sign below to indicate your concurrence. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (602) 712-8148. Thank you for your continued cooperation with this agency.

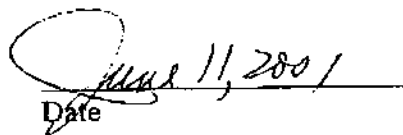
Sincerely,



Michael Ohnersorgen
Historic Preservation Specialist



Signature for SHPO Concurrence



June 11, 2001

Date

Enclosures

May 11, 2001

TO: Jim Romero, Arizona Department of Transportation

FROM: Eric Anderson, Transportation Planning Manager

SUBJECT: ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
REGARDING THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE
GRAND AVENUE INTERSECTION WITH 27TH AVENUE AND THOMAS ROAD

We have received a letter dated April 9, 2001 from the consulting firm Logan Simpson Design requesting comment on the March 2001 draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements to the Grand Avenue intersection with 27th Avenue and Thomas Road. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Our principal comment is to note that regional plans and priorities for all major facilities are currently undergoing review as part of the development of the new Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The currently approved Long Range Transportation Plan calls for Grand Avenue to ultimately be a controlled access expressway. The ultimate concept could change as the new RTP is developed.

In the interim, the plans for the grade separation at this intersection should address the regional plan concept for an expressway for this section of Grand Avenue. As we noted in our comments on the March 2000 Initial Design Concept Report (DCR), the draft EA should refer to the ultimate concept for the facility.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (602) 254-6300.

c: Victor Mendez, ADOT
Mike Shirley, Logan Simpson Design